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ACTS of VENGEANCE!™

QUASAR™

MAYHEM ON THE MOON!

FEATURING THE WATCHER! LIVING LASER! THE RED GHOST! AND OH, YES--VENOM!

RYAN / BUDIANSKY

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STAN LEE PRESENTS:

QUASAR

FLIES IN A CATHEDRAL

SOMEWHERE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, FIFTY MILES EAST OF THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY FOR SUPERHUMAN FELONS KNOWN AS THE VAULT, A CHASE ENDS IN A SHOWDOWN.

LISTEN, RUNT! IF YOU THINK WE'RE GOING TO LET SOME *PUNK* WE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF TAKE US BACK TO *PRISON*--

--THEN YOUR *HEADBAND'S* ON TOO TIGHT!

MARK GRUENWALD STORY • PAUL RYAN PENCILS • DANNY BULANADI INKS • JANICE CHIANG LETTERS • PAUL BECTON COLORS • HOWARD MACKIE EDITOR • TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

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GET REAL, PAL.

IF YOUR BARGAIN BASEMENT WEBBING CAN'T PENETRATE MY ENERGY-AURA, I'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEAR FROM YOU!

BUT HEY, YOU LIKE COBWEBS SO MUCH--

--WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MINE?

WHAT--?

LET ME OUT OF HERE, PUNK! HEAR ME?!?

SURE THING... SOON AS WE GET TO--

"--THIS VAULT."

CHIEF-- LOOK!

THE VAULT CAN'T HOLD US, PUNK! WE'VE BROKEN OUT OF HERE TWICE ALREADY!

HI THERE. THE NAME'S QUASAR. I'M A ROOKIE AVENGER.

NICE WORK, QUASAR. VENOM'S ONE OF THE VICIOUS ONES.

SO THAT'S HIS NAME. WHAT'S HIS STORY? I GOT SOME WEIRD ENERGY READINGS FROM HIM

THAT BLACK OUTFIT OF HIS IS S'POSED TO BE SOME SORT OF ALIEN CREATURE!

WELL, IF YOU'VE GOT EVERY-THING UNDER CONTROL HERE--

--I'LL BE OFF! TAKE CARE, GUYS!

LATER THAT MORNING, ON THE TWELFTH FLOOR OF FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...

'MORNING, KAYLA.

MORNING? IT'S ALMOST *NOON*, BOSS! I THOUGHT ONCE YOU GOT A *CLIENT*, YOU WOULDN'T BE TAKING MORNINGS OFF TO PLAY *RACQUETBALL* ANY MORE.

ANYTHING *UP*?

NOPE.

YEAH. WELL, I HAD ONE MORE *HOUR* COMING TO ME IN MY MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE, SO I THOUGHT, WHAT THE HECK.

WELL, I'M GOING TO BE AT MY *DESK* THE REST OF THE DAY. IF YOU'LL PLACE MY USUAL *DELI ORDER* FOR 12:30, I'LL BE ALL SET.

AYE *AYE*, CAPTAIN.

BOY, I'VE GOT A *LOT OF WORK* TO DO TO GET READY FOR NEXT MONDAY'S *PRESENTATION*.

IF I FAIL TO IMPRESS *VAUGHN SECURITY'S* VERY FIRST PAYING *CUSTOMER*, I MIGHT AS WELL *FORGET* THIS WHOLE SETUP.

LET'S NOT PANIC *NOW*. JUST BUCKLE DOWN AND *GET* TO IT.

HMMM...LET'S GO BACK TO THE *FLOOR PLAN*...

HI *MOM*.

SORRY I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO DO MUCH AS YOUR *COSMIC CHAMPION* WITH ALL THE *AVENGERS* EMERGENCIES LATELY--

--BUT I AT LEAST MANAGED TO STRIKE *ANOTHER E.T.* OFF THE "POTENTIAL THREAT" TO YOU FROM SPACE" LIST. A *HUMAN/ALIEN SYMBIOTE* GOING BY THE NAME OF *VENOM*.

AFTER I MAKE THIS PRESENTATION, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO SOME SERIOUS *UNIVERSE-PROTECTING* LIKE YOU *APPOINTED* ME TO DO. OKAY?

I UNDERSTAND, WENDELL VAUGHN.

SAY, IF YOU GET *BORED* IN THERE, I'D GLADLY SHARE SOME OF MY *PAPERWORK* WITH YOU.

MENTALLY EXPLORING THE *UNIVERSE* GIVES ME *PLENTY* TO DO, MY PROTECTOR. IT IS AMAZING HOW SWIFTLY ONE'S *COSMIC AWARENESS* CAN DIMINISH IF ONE DOES NOT KEEP UP WITH ONE'S *STUDIES*.

I DON'T MEAN TO BE *RUDE*, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO *EXCUSE ME*. I'VE GOT A *TON OF WORK* TO GET DONE. AND UNLIKE YOURS, MY MIND CAN ONLY CONCENTRATE ON *ONE THING* AT A TIME.

AGAIN, I UNDERSTAND. GOOD DAY.

NOW WHERE *WAS* I? OH, YEAH...

OH, NOW WHAT? MY WRISTBAND TINGLING-- *AVENGERS FREQUENCY*.

QUASAR HERE.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AGAIN. BUT WE'VE JUST GOTTEN A REPORT ON ANOTHER VAULT ESCAPEE-- *KLAW*, THE SOUND MASTER.

I KNOW YOU'VE ALREADY TAKEN *ONE* CALL TODAY. BUT *CAP'S* IN WASHINGTON, I WASN'T ABLE TO REACH *THOR*, *SHE-HULK'S*...

SORRY, *PEGGY*. ONE'S MY *LIMIT* FOR TODAY. I'VE GOT A WHOLE LOT OF *PERSONAL STUFF* TO TAKE CARE OF.

I READ YOU. CARTER OUT.

I *HATED* DOING THAT, BUT HEY, I'VE GOT *OTHER* COMMITMENTS, TOO. NOW LET'S SEE. WHERE *WAS* I?

THE FLOOR PLANS... RIGHT. HMMM.

SAY, KAYLA--CANCEL *MY DELI ORDER*. I JUST REMEMBERED AN EXTREMELY URGENT *LUNCH DATE* I FORGOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT.

PEGGY, THIS IS *QUASAR*. I'VE DECIDED I *WILL* TAKE THAT EMERGENCY CALL. AFTER ALL.

SO *WHERE'S* KLAW BEEN SIGHTED? *NEARBY*, I HOPE.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI...

OR NOT SO NEARBY.

--YOU'D BETTER NOT GIVE ME ANY MORE PROBLEM THAN *VENOM* DID. I'M IN *NO MOOD* FOR A TOUGH FIGHT.

KLAW, YOU BIG BAG OF *NOISE*--

OKAY, ATTUNE MY QUANTUM-BANDS TO HIS PARTICULAR *ENERGY-SIGNATURE* AND--

--BINGO! I'VE FOUND HIM!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S UP TO NO GOOD WITH THOSE *SOLID SOUND CONSTRUCTS* OF HIS!

BTAM!

WAKANDA EXPORT 587

YO, KLAW! REMEMBER *ME?*

WE TUSSLED ONCE OR TWICE BACK IN *PROJECT PEGASUS!**

I *WON*, INCIDENTALLY.

**THE GOVERNMENT ENERGY FACILITY QUASAR ONCE WORKED FOR.*

QUASAR! OF COURSE I REMEMBER YOU! YOU CREATE OBJECTS FROM *LIGHT* THE WAY I CREATE FROM *SOUND.*

VVVVM

IT WAS NOT *YOU* I WAS HOPING TO DRAW INTO BATTLE--

--BUT YOU'LL MOST DEFINITELY *DO!*

SURE, AND *WHAT* I'LL DO IS GIVE YOU A LITTLE *LESSON* ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *LIGHT* AND *SOUND*--

--'CAUSE THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY I *AM!*

PAY ATTENTION NOW!

MY POWER--LIGHT--IS AN *ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY PHENOMENON* THAT CAN TRAVEL THROUGH A *VACUUM*.

SOUND, HOWEVER, IS A *MECHANICAL RADIANT ENERGY* TRANSMITTED THROUGH A MEDIUM LIKE *AIR*--

--WHICH IS TO SAY IT *CANNOT EXIST* IN A *VACUUM*--

...MUCH LIKE THE ONE I *CREATED* HERE.

RELAX, FOLKS. I *DIDN'T* KILL HIM. I JUST MADE HIS SOUND-GENERATED BODY *COLLAPSE* INTO HIS *PROSTHETIC DEVICE*.

THE MOMENT HE ABSORBS THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF *SOUND*, HE'LL *REGENERATE*. I PROMISE!

SORRY I COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN HERE *SOONER*, BUT--

WE DON'T *WANT* YOUR KIND HERE.

YEAH, TAKE THAT SUPER-POWER STUFF BACK TO *NEW YORK*!

BOY, TALK ABOUT *UNGRATEFUL*--! THE EPIDEMIC OF SUPER-VILLAINY THAT'S FOLLOWED THE BIG *VAULT BREAKOUT* CERTAINLY HASN'T DONE MUCH FOR *PUBLIC RELATIONS*.*

WONDER IF *CONGRESS* WILL ACTUALLY BE PRESSURED TO PASS THAT *SUPER POWERS REGISTRATION ACT*.

HOPE *NOT*. IT'LL BE THE *GOOD GUYS* MORE PUT OUT BY IT THAN THE *BAD*.

*AS DEPICTED IN NUMEROUS OTHER TITLES WHERE "ACTS OF VENGEANCE" ARE GOING ON.

ANYWAY, THIS WAS AS EASY AS I COULD HAVE HOPED. I'LL PROBABLY BE BACK AT MY DESK BY--

--WHAT THE--?

HOW'S IT GOING, SPARKLES? THE NAME'S LIVING LASER AND I'VE COME TO RELIEVE YOU OF MY BUDDY'S BLASTER THERE.

LIVING LASER? HE'S AN OLD-TIME AVENGERS FOE!*

*LAST SEEN IN IRON MAN #211.

SORRY, SIR--BUT KLAW'S COMING WITH ME!

BEAM ON, JUNIOR!

HE LASED OPEN MY--

AAHHH!

TAKE A POWDER, KLAW-- I CAN HANDLE MR. GLITTER HERE!

KLAW'S DROPPING FAST. THE BALL WILL MEAN NOTHING TO HIS SIMULATED BODY.

I CAN ALWAYS RECAPTURE HIM. THE LASER HERE IS MY MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM.

HE'S INCREDIBLY FAST. HE SOMEHOW MANAGES TO DODGE MY FORCE-BEAMS--NNNGH!

OKAY THEN, HOW 'BOUT IF I LET OFF WITH AN OMNIDIRECTIONAL CASCADE OF THEM?

DODGE THIS, WISE GUY!

AGGH! YOU GOT ME--

FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID!

YOU SEE, KID, I'M JUST WHAT MY NAME SAYS--A LIVING LASER!

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE ABLE TO HURT ENERGY?!?

CAN I GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT?

BLAST! HE'S TOO QUICK FOR ME TO EVEN ENCAPSULATE!

BUT THERE'S STILL ONE TRICK I CAN ALWAYS TRY ON ENERGY-BASED OPPONENTS!

LET ME KEEP HIM BUSY SO HE DOESN'T TUMBLE ON TO WHAT I'M UP TO!

YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BIND PHOTONS TO AIR MOLECULES TO CREATE OOO-OADS, KID!

I WAS A SCIENTIST BEFORE I GOT TRANSFORMED.

I KNOW THINGS ABOUT ENERGY THAT AMATEURS LIKE YOU COULDN'T BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND!

I CAN-- I-- WHA--?

WHA-'S HAP-NING T'MEEE--?

WELL, MR. SCIENTIST. I'VE JUST LOCATED YOUR SPECIFIC *ENERGY SIGNATURE* ON MY QUANTUM-BANDS. AND I'M TAPPING *INTO* YOU!

ANOTHER FEW *SECONDS* AND YOU'LL BE--

NOOOOOOO!

WHOOPS. HE *SLIPPED AWAY* BEFORE I COULD FULLY *VACUUM* HIM IN.

AND TRAVELING AT THE *SPEED OF LIGHT*, HE'S PRETTY *FAST* IN THE SLIPPING AWAY DEPARTMENT!

THAT'S OKAY. NOW THAT I'VE *IDENTIFIED* HIS ENERGY PATTERN, I CAN FOLLOW HIM [illegible]

I'M NOWHERE NEAR AS *FAST* AS HIM IN *EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE* FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS...

BUT OUT HERE IN *SPACE* I CAN REALLY *OPEN UP* WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT ADVERSE *ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS*.

WONDER HOW *FAR* THE LIVING LASER WILL FLY TRYING TO DITCH ME? AT LIGHT SPEED IT WOULD TAKE HIM A LITTLE OVER AN HOUR TO BE WAY OUT PAST *SATURN!*

THAT'S ASSUMING HE STAYS IN THE PLANE OF THE *SOLAR SYSTEM*. IF HE WERE TO HEAD STRAIGHT "UP" HE COULD--

NAH. HE CAN'T BE *THAT* FRIGHTENED OF ME.

UNLESS HE'S GOT *MOMMY* *DEVICES* LIKE I HAVE, IT WOULD BE PRETTY RISKY TO FIND YOUR WAY *BACK* ONCE YOU'RE WAY OUT IN THE *INTERSTELLAR VOID*.

NO, I'LL BET HE'S HIDING OUT SOMEWHERE RELATIVELY *CLOSE BY*... LIKE *THE MOON!*

HAVEN'T DONE A *QUANTUM LEAP* IN A WHILE--!

AH! NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE *SPACE WARP* TO TAKE A FEW HOURS OFF ONE'S TRAVEL TIME!

QUANTUM-BANDS, YOU'RE THE *GREATEST!*

YEP! THE LASER'S ENERGY SIGNATURE IS A LOT *STRONGER* HERE THAN ON *EARTH!*

NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS *SNEAK UP* ON HIM BEFORE-- *HEY*, WHAT THE HECK IS *THAT?*

I REMEMBER THE THING TELLING ME ABOUT THE *BLUE AREA OF THE MOON*--RUINS OF AN *ANCIENT CITY* BUILT BY SOME ALIENS--BUT THIS CITY LOOKS *BRAND-SPANKING NEW!*

URBAN RENEWAL...

NO TIME TO INVESTIGATE. I'VE GOT A RUNAWAY *ENERGY-MAN* OR TWO TO APPREHEND!

HEY, NOW THIS IS MORE *LIKE* IT. THAT INVERTED CHANDELIER CITY WAS JUST A *SMALL PART* OF THE BLUE AREA.

MOST OF IT *IS* RUINS!

HMMM THE LASER'S ENERGY FEELS REALLY *CLOSE!*

OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!

HE *FOLLOWED* ME HERE!!!

THE KID MUST'VE *LOCKED ONTO ME* WITH THOSE BRACELETS OF HIS!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO *CAMOUFLAGE* MYSELF? IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN CHANGE BACK INTO MY *HUMAN FORM* ANYMORE

I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S MY *BEST BET*... TO TRY TO *OUTRUN* HIM IN OPEN SPACE--

--OR TRY TO *HIDE* FROM HIM SOMEWHERE ON THE MOON. MAYBE IF I WERE TO *BURROW* STRAIGHT INTO--

HEY WHAT'S *THIS?*

SOME SORT OF STRUCTURE *UNLIKE* ANY OF THE OTHERS I SAW

FEELS *WARM*... LIKE THE PLACE CONTAINS A POWERFUL *ENERGY SOURCE*. MAYBE THIS IS THE *POWER PLANT* FOR THAT CRYSTALLINE CITY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RUINS!

MAYBE INSIDE I CAN FIND A WAY TO *DISGUISE* MY ENERGY TRAIL, GET THE KID OFF MY *BACK!*

AND DEEP WITHIN [redacted] *EDIFICE, AN ANCIENT BEING LOOKS UP FROM HIS VIGIL.*

HIS REVERIES DISTURBED BY THE SUDDEN KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTRUDER'S ***BRASH ENTRANCE...!***

ELSEWHERE IN THE ALIEN CITADEL...

(I MUST BE CAREFUL! IT HAS TAKEN ME MANY LONG MONTHS TO GET THIS FAR. IT WOULD NOT DO TO BE DISCOVERED WHEN I AM SO CLOSE TO MY GOAL!)

(HA! WHO BUT IVAN KRAGOFF WOULD HAVE THE AUDACITY TO DO WHAT I AM DOING--TO INFILTRATE THE ABODE OF THE OMNISCIENT WATCHER--TO PLUNDER HIS ALIEN ARTIFACTS.?

*TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN

(WHAT IS THIS--A FLYING MAN OF LIGHT?! WHERE DID HE COME FROM?!)

(THAT INSIPID FOOL! HE'LL RUIN EVERYTHING!)

(MY POWERS OF MYTANGIBILITY AND STEALTH HAVE ENABLED ME TO ESCAPE THE OMNISCIENT ENTITY'S AWARENESS UP TO NOW!)

(IF THAT CRETIN SHOULD ATTRACT THE WATCHER'S SCRUTINY, I COULD BE DISCOVERED AS WELL!)

(WHAT SHOULD I DO?)

MEANWHILE, JUST OUTSIDE....

THE LASER'S ENERGY SEEMS TO LEAD INSIDE THERE.

WHOOEEE! WHATEVER'S INSIDE THERE HAS AN ENERGY SIGNATURE LIKE NONE I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED BEFORE.

IT FEELS VERY ALIEN. MAYBE EON CAN IDENTIFY IT.

SAY, EON... KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT AN ALIEN ON EARTH'S MOON?

YES UATU THE WATCHER DWELLS THERE. HE IS A MEMBER OF A RACE OF NEAR-OMNISCIENT, VASTLY POWERFUL BEINGS WHO HAVE APPOINTED THEMSELVES OFFICIAL OBSERVERS OF THE COSMOS.

ALTHOUGH EVERY WATCHER HAS AN *OATH OF NON-INTERFERENCE*, THEY DO NOT WELCOME *DIRECT ENCOUNTERS* WITH THE SUBJECTS OF THEIR OBSERVATIONS.

I SEE WELL. I JUST CHASED A LIVING *LASER-MAN* INSIDE HIS FORTRESS. WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?

LET HIM GO. THE WATCHER CAN TAKE CARE OF *HIMSELF*

GOTCHA

I DON'T KNOW... SEEMS A *WASTE* TO COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING.

CALL ME A GUY WHO HATES *UNFINISHED BUSINESS*, BUT I JUST WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT IF I *LEFT* WITHOUT WARNING THIS WATCHER ABOUT HIS *UNINVITED HOUSE-GUEST*.

I FEEL THE LASER'S ENERGY REAL-- *THERE HE IS!*

WITH ANY LUCK I CAN VACUUM HIM UP AND *GET OUT* OF HERE WITHOUT [redacted] OFF THE WATCHER.

HEY. THE PORTAL *OPENED* WHEN I TAPPED IT. IF *THAT* ISN'T AN INVITATION, THEN *WHAT IS IT*?

WOWEE. THIS PLACE LOOKS A LOT BIGGER ON THE *INSIDE* THAN IT DID ON THE *OUTSIDE*. MUST BE A *TESSERACT** OR SOMETHING.

HELLO? ANYBODY *HOME?* THE NAME'S *QUASAR*. I COME IN PEACE!

OKAY, SIR-- THAT'S *FAR ENOUGH!*

YOU!

*A HYPOTHETICAL FOURTH DIMENSIONAL OBJECT

I BECAME SO DISORIENTED BY THIS *BIZARRE ARCHITECTURE* I FAILED TO SEE HIM! BLAST HIM ANYWAY!

BACK OFF, KID! I'VE GOT NO QUARREL WITH YOU!

GOT TO ESCAPE-- HOW? HOW?!

WHO'S THAT?

WHOA!

IT'S AHHH--!

THAT CIRCLE-- IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S A WINDOW INTO ANOTHER WORLD!

WHAT IF--?

THE GRIM-VISAGED ALIEN DOES NOT BETRAY IF HE KNOWS WHAT THOUGHT RACES THROUGH THE ELECTRICAL FIELD THAT CONSTITUTES THE LIVING LASER'S MIND...

...AND IN THAT NEXT INSTANT, WHEN THAT THOUGHT RECOGNIZED, IT IS TOO LATE FOR ALL ACTION--

--WERE ACTION AN OPTION THE WATCHER WOULD DECIDE TO TAKE

I WAS SO TAKEN ABACK BY THE *WATCHER*, I LOST TRACK OF THE *LASER* AND--

--HE *DISAPPEARED* INTO THAT WEIRD PORTAL I DON'T DETECT HIS *ENERGY* ANYMORE.

UH, WATCHER--*SIR*, I'M SORRY ABOUT THE *INTRUSION*. I WAS JUST TRYING TO *APPREHEND* THAT FELLOW WHO STREAKED BY.

--HE'S A *CONVICTED FELON* ON EARTH, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT *KNOW* THAT, BEING *OMNISCIENT* AND ALL. WHAT *HAPPENED* TO HIM ANYWAY? UH, YOU DON'T *HAVE TO* ANSWER IF YOU DON'T WANT.

WELL, I GUESS I'LL BE--

--*GOING...?!?*

HEY! HOW'D I--? THE WATCHER MUST'VE GOT *TIRED* OF ME STAMMERING LIKE AN IDIOT AND *TELEPORTED* ME OUT OF HIS HOUSE.

HMH! GUESS HE DOESN'T CONSIDER EFFORTLESSLY ELIMINATING *HOUSEHOLD PESTS* LIKE ME A *VIOLATION* OF HIS OATH OF NON-INVOLVEMENT.

OH, WELL, GUESS, I'LL JUST BE--

HEY!

(YOU UNMITIGATED IDIOT! YOU'VE RUINED *EVERYTHING*! IF NOT FOR YOU TWO, THE WATCHER WOULD NEVER HAVE *KNOWN* ENOUGH TO *EXPEL ME* FROM HIS STRONGHOLD!)

WHO--?

WAIT, I *RECOGNIZE* THIS GUY. HE'S THAT *RUSSIAN SCIENTIST* WHO GOT IRRADIATED BY COSMIC RAYS--THE *RED GHOST*!

WHAT'S *HE* DOING HERE?

CAN'T EXACTLY *ASK* HIM. WE'RE WAY OUTSIDE THE BLUE AREA'S *ARTIFICIAL ATMOSPHERE* AND GRAVITY. WITHOUT *AIR* TO PROPAGATE SOUND CONVERSATION'S PRETTY UNLIKELY.

UNLESS I ENCASE HIM IN AN *AIRTIGHT BUBBLE* AND PROJECT SOME OF THE AIR IN *MY AURA* INSIDE.

HA! YOU THINK YOUR FORCE-SPHERE CAN HOLD *ME*?

WHOOPS. HE PASSED THROUGH MY BUBBLE LIKE IT *WASN'T THERE*! GUESS HIS MENTAL CONTROL OVER HIS *TANGIBILITY* IS EVERYTHING IT'S *CRACKED UP* TO BE.

WONDER WHY THE LACK OF AIR ISN'T *BOTHERING* HIM?

THE NAME'S *GUMBAR*, COMRADE. I'M ONE OF THE *AVENGERS*. I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO BEING *FIRED UPON*

I'VE GOT NO QUARREL WITH THE GUY.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE AVENGERS HAVE ANY JURISDICTION OVER FOREIGN AGITATORS LIKE HIM--

--BUT SINCE HE SEEMS TO HAVE A BONE TO PICK WITH ME--

--THE LEAST I CAN DO IS RUN THROUGH THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM AND SEE IF ANYTHING KEEPS HIM FROM ADVANCING!

I'LL START WITH LOW-FREQUENCY RADIO WAVES--

--ADD MY SPECIAL BINDING FORCE TO GIVE MY ENERGY MANIFESTATION SOLIDITY--

--AND WORK MY WAY UP TO COSMIC RAYS.

HMMM. NO GO. AND HERE I WAS HOPING THAT A HIGH DOSAGE OF THE SAME RADIATION THAT EMPOWERED HIM MIGHT PLAY HOB WITH HIS BODY'S IRRADIATED CELLS.

SORRY, COMRADE IF I CAN'T TOUCH YOU, I SURE DON'T WANT YOU TOUCHING ME.

(THE YOUTH'S POWER SEEMS TO ORIGINATE IN THOSE WRIST-GEMS, SINCE HE HAS PREVENTED ME FROM CLAIMING THE WATCHER'S OBJECTS OF POWER--)

(- IT IS ONLY FITTING I CONFISCATE HIS!)

OH NO YOU DON'T. I'M IN NO MOOD FOR

Y KNOW. SOMEHOW A SMASH JUST ISN'T THE SAME WITHOUT THE SOUND EFFECT.

HEY! WHERE'D HE GO? I COULDN'T HAVE CLOBBERED HIM WITH THAT. I ALREADY TRIED THAT FREQUENCY

WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THIS IS A SETUP?

AHA! THAT'S WHY!

HE'S MADE HIS ARMS TANGIBLE SO THEY CAN CHOKE ME! GOOD-- INFRARED OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO SIZZLE A SOLID ARM!

! HE GHOSTED OUT ON ME AGAIN!

COME ON--LET'S GET *CREATIVE* HERE. IF I CAN'T FIND A WAY TO OVERPOWER ONE INTANGIBLE RUSSIAN--

I MANAGED TO TOUCH THOSE *BANDS OF POWER* OF HIS--AND WHATEVER I'VE TOUCHED I CAN MAKE *INTANGIBLE!*

HEY-- WHAT'S--?!?

MY AURA--

--WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WHEN I HAVE TO PROTECT THE UNIVERSE FROM SOMETHING *REALLY HEAVY?*

IT IS AS I HOPED. THE YOUTH NEEDED TO KEEP IN *PHYSICAL CONTACT* WITH HIS WEAPONS TO MAINTAIN HIS *ARTIFICIAL ATMOSPHERE*.

HE IS *DEAD* AND HIS WEAPONS ARE *MINE*.

ODD THAT HIS *WRIST-RINGS* REMAINED ON HIS ARMS AFTER I *DEMATERIALIZED* THEM...I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THEM TO *DRIFT AWAY* UNDER THE MOON'S LESSER GRAVITY.

EH--→ I CAN *TOUCH* THAT WHICH I MAKE INTANGIBLE WHEN *I* AM IN A *SIMILAR STATE*. YET--

--I CANNOT SEEM TO *REMOVE* THESE INFERNAL THINGS FROM HIS *ARMS!*

PERHAPS IF I MAKE THEM *TANGIBLE* AND BECOME PARTIALLY TANGIBLE *MYSELF*--→ I CAN SURVIVE A *VACUUM* FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

I DID IT! TRICKED HIM BUT *GOOD*.

APPARENTLY NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY TRIES TO *DO* TO MY QUANTUM-BANDS I STILL MAINTAIN MY *MENTAL INTERFACE* WITH THEM.

SO WHEN I FELT THE GHOST MONKEYING WITH THEIR *TANGIBILITY*--

--I SHIFTED MY *ENERGY-AURA* BEYOND THE VISIBLE SPECTRUM AND THEN BIDED MY TIME UNTIL HE DROPPED HIS *GUARD* LONG ENOUGH TO BECOME *TANGIBLE!*

UH-*OH*, I'M RUNNING LOW ON AIR, SHARING IT WITH THE GHOST LIKE THIS--I'D BETTER *MOVE!*

A QUICK DIP INTO THE *BLUE AREA* TO REFILL MY AURA WITH *AMP* AND I'LL BE *ALL SET*.

NOW, WITH ANY LUCK, I'LL BE ABLE TO GET THE GHOST BACK TO *EARTH* BEFORE HE WAKES UP AND *BLAPS OUT* OF MY ENERGY-CAPSULE.

THEN WHAT? I COULD HAVE EON CHECK IF THERE ARE ANY OUTSTANDING *WARRANTS* ON THIS GUY. IF NOT, GUESS I'LL JUST DROP HIM OFF SOMEWHERE IN *RUSSIA* AND HOPE HE'LL BEHAVE HIMSELF.

I'LL HAVE TO COME BACK SOMETIME WHEN I DON'T HAVE *PRESSING BUSINESS*.

--WATCH THIS!

STRANGE, MY FIRST TRIP TO THE *MOON* AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO ENJOY IT! *STARK SPLENDOR*.

AS FOR *YOU*, MR. WATCHER--

the end.

STELLARGRAMS

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address. Though we will withhold that information upon request.

Greetings:

Now that QUASAR #1 is out, it's analysis time, with some miscellaneous but possibly relevant comments.

First, let me say I'm glad Marvel is trying another "cosmic" title, since SILVER SURFER has been a complete disappointment to me.

Second, I like the emphasis I'm already seeing on Quasar's character. Showing how a character got his super powers is easy; showing how he became the person he is is more difficult but just as important. I can tell that Gilbert Vaughn will be an important influence on Wendell's actions, even when he's not actually there. Speaking from personal experience, I can tell you that sons do pick up traits from their fathers, even traits that annoy them. You've already shown that Wendell is, in his way, as much a perfectionist as his father. I wonder, do the resemblances run deeper? I get the feeling they might. I noticed that even when he thought he was about to explode, Wendell was observing and analyzing. On the other hand, Wendell doesn't seem to have any major hang-ups, which is also good: I regard neuroses and phobias as ham-handed substitutes for real characterization.

As for powers, I think that Quasar's are fine. I do hope you will quantify them, although we readers do not need to be given the figures. For instance, how strong a person can he restrain? I think quantification helps prevent power escalation. Power escalation is a problem in many comics, especially when writers then invent arbitrary "Achilles heels" for the hero, and mysteriously lots of villains show up who can exploit those weaknesses. (Superman and Green Lantern are the examples of this, but Marvel's pulled some shoddy tricks too—viz. some of the things Claremont has done with Professor X and the Juggernaut.) Another escalation problem, and one I find even more annoying, is giving the character a new power out of the blue. Really new powers should be added on only after careful consideration, I think. Although a Protector of the Universe should be powerful, I personally find it hard to identify with omnipotence, and I'd hate for you to have to keep bringing Elders of the Universe and suchlike to give Quasar a good fight.

That's all I can pull out of issue #1 directly, but I also have a few general observations and suggestions. I think that one of the most important things to remember when writing space adventures is that space is big. Space is really, really big. People traveling through the galaxies are not often going to meet old acquaintances by chance. If only one star system in a million gives rise to a sentient race, that's 100,000 species in the Milky Way alone, and a lot of planets to get lost among. It also points out the silliness of things like the "Kree galaxy," "Skrull galaxy," and "Shi'ar galaxy"—another pet peeve of mine. It's not *impossible* for a very old race to have conquered an entire galaxy, especially if the galaxy is rather small, but it seems like overkill to me. Fortunately, there is an out: in addition to galaxies, there are also globular clusters and open clusters of stars." Reference to one structure could easily be mistranslated into another, especially by scientifically illiterate comic book "chroniclers."

While you're at it, I'll be watching for bungled use of real science and scientific terminology. Super powers and hyperdrivers don't follow established rules of science, of course, but plenty of other things do. If you obviously break Newton's laws of motion, or have sentient races evolving on worlds orbiting red giant stars, you'll hear about it. And please, no zipping in and out of black holes! This may seem harsh, but basically you'll get the same treatment as any other magazine SF writer. I think you're up to it.

When I started writing this letter, I had forgotten about your MARVEL AGE interview. I can see that some of the things I've commented on are things you set out to do. So I guess you're doing pretty well so far. Keep it up!

Dean Shomshak
16 Raft Island
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Our intent is to keep the scientific content of this book accurate, Dean—let us know if all the science texts and magazines we make Mark read are doing any good!

Dear Marvel,

I just finished QUASAR #1 and I must say that I'm impressed. After reading about him in MARVEL AGE, I expected the first issues to be boring since they were set in the past. Boy, was I wrong. I knew that he would get the bands and survive, but the question was how? Having Vaughn fall at being a combat agent of SHIELD added to the suspense. It was easily the best comic I bought that month (even better than the other three AVENGERS titles). I think Quasar has the chance to be one of the most powerful Avengers. I can already see a sub-plot developing between Quasar and his dad. Doesn't he work for the Avengers now? The chart in AVENGERS #300 made it seem like he did.

Question: When Quasar flies will he be turning completely yellow like he used to in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE? I like him better when he doesn't.

I'm expecting some great stories from Mr. Gruenwald. He's done some fine things on CAPTAIN AMERICA. Let's just hope Quasar's book lasts longer than his other Project: Pegasus buddies did (Thing had 36 issues, and Bill Foster as Black Goliath had only 5!) Good luck with this series. I hope it makes it.

Sean Wheeler
Lexington, KY 40502

So do we, Scott! We're depicting our Cosmic Avenger in natural colors while flying unless he's really augmenting his energy-aura with extra "juice."

Dear QUASAR Crew,

My congratulations. QUASAR is the first comic I have ever read that did not explain what SHIELD stood for in a footnote. I've seen it so many times that well, let's just say it would make Col. Fury want to eat his lunch through a tube in his tummy. Anyway, thanks for some relief. Oh, and great first issue, too. Let's see more of Quasar's past.

Ryan Humphries
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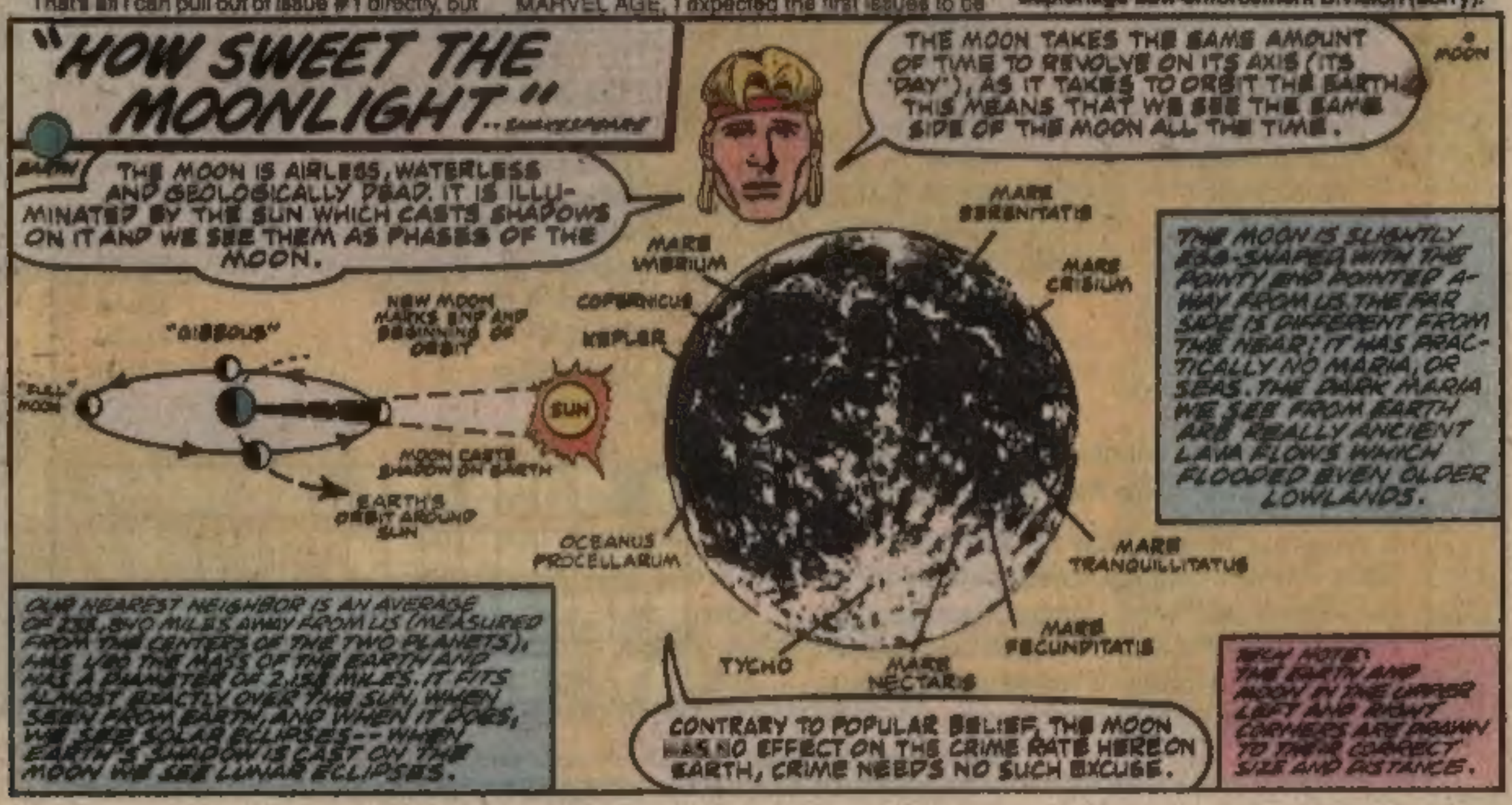
Plymouth, MN 55447

Will do, Ryan.
—Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-enforcement Division (sorry).